Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01353 011051Z

21
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /105 W
---------- 081828
O 010950Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2108

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1353

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, TC
SUBJECT: FAILURE OF GE GENERATING EQUIPMENT IN ABU DHABI

REF: ABU DHABI 1054

1. SHAIKH SORUR, CHAIRMAN, ABU DHABI DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY (DWE), SUMMONED AMBASSADOR TO COMPLAIN OF PERFORMANCE OF GE GAS TURBINES RECENTLY PURCHASED BY DWE.

2. AT PRESETNTIME DWE HAS THREE UNITS IN ABU DHABI, TWO OF WHICH (NOS. 7 AND 8) SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL AND ONE OF WHICH (NO. 9) IS BEING INSTALLED. LOAD GEAR OF UNIT NO. 8 ORIGINALLY BROKE DOWN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND AFTER TWELVE DAYS REPAIR WORK NEW GEAR BOX INSTALLED AND UNIT STARTED AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 27. UNIT STOPPED AGAIN AFTER THIRTY-FOUR HOURS OPERATION WHEN GEAR ONCE AGAIN BROKE DOWN.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF NO. 8 UNIT, NO. 7 UNIT IS ALSO HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ITS STARTING DIESEL ENGINE. IF UNIT NO. 7 BREAKS DOWN, HALF OF ABU DHABI WILL LOSE POWER.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 01353 011051Z

4. DWE HAS SENT TELEXES TO GE NEW YORK, ATTENTION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MR. HOYT STEELE, INFORMING HIM OF THIS SITUATION, BUT HAS HAD NO REPLY SO FAR. GE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIRTY DAYS' COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF THE TURBINES BEFORE DWE TAKES DELIVERY, BUT RESIDENT GE ENGINEERING TEAM APPARENTLY INCAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING NECESSARY REPAIRS. MOST RECENT (SEPT 28, 1974) DWE MESSAGE TO GE ASKED QUOTE PLEASE IMMEDIATELY REPEAT IMMEDIATELY SEND CAPABLE REPEAT CAPABLE SPECIALISTS TO INVESTIGATE CAUSE OF DAMAGE AND FINALLY REPEAT FINALLY FIND THE CAUSES AND SOLVE THE PROBLEM UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY CAN ONLY SAY AMEN TO ABOVE. FREQUENT POWER FAILURES IN ABU DHABI DURING LAST TWO MONTHS HAVE BEEN CAUSING GREAT INCONVENIENCE AND DISCOMFORT. NEWSPAPER STORIES ARE FEATURED DAILY DESCRIBING LATEST BREAKDOWN OF US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. SINCE SHAIKH SORUR IS ONE OF UAE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKERS, GE'S POOR PORFORMANCE COULD MEAN LOSS OF MUCH US BUSINESS AND SALES. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY HAS GIVEN FULL SUPPORT TO GE SALES AND EFFORTS IN UAE, INCLUDING PERSONAL INTERVENTION AT HIGHEST LEVELS BY AMBASSADOR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC PLEASE CALL GE NEW YORK OFFICE AND, EMPHASIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN ABU DHABI, ASK THEM TO: (A) REPLY TO DWE'S TELEX MESSAGES IMMEDIATELY, AND (B) ARRANGE FOR COMPETENT TECHNICAL TEAM TO COME ABU DHABI AND REMAIN REPEAT REMAIN UNTIL NECESSARY REPAIR WORK COMPLETED AND MACHINES OPERATING SMOOTHLY.

7. AMBASSADOR HAS SENT PERSONAL MESSAGE SUMMARIZING ABOVE INFORMATION BY TELEX TO HOYT STEELE, GE CORPORATION, NEW YORK.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740277-0906, D740276-0595
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741085/aaaacuer.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ABU DHABI 1054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAILURE OF GE GENERATING EQUIPMENT IN ABU DHABI
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